

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6, 9-12 and 24-34 are pending in the application, with 1, 6, 27 and 31 being the independent claims. New claims 28-34 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to claim 3 is found, *inter alia*, at page 5, lines 21-23, at page 45, lines 13-16, and in original claim 3.

Support for claims 28-30 can be found, *inter alia*, in allowed claims 10-12, but dependent on claim 27 as opposed to claim 1. Further support for claim 31 can be found in claim 27 and claims 32-34 are identical to allowed claims 10-12, except for their dependencies.

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Applicants thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Applicants also thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-12 and 24-27.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph***

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject-matter which the Applicants regard as the invention is respectfully traversed.

While not acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended claim 3 to recite "said additional sequence between exon 3 and exon 4a" comprises defined nucleotide sequences cited in (a), (b) or (c).

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Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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